

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE EMBASSY CONTACT IN CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE--

I.I. KOVALENKO

1. DURING A DISCUSSION OF SOVIET-JAPANESE RELATIONS WITH EMBOFFS ON MARCH 26 (AIRGRAM BEING POUCHED), JAPANESE EMBASSY COUNSELOR AKIHO COMMENTED AT LENGTH ABOUT IVAN IVANOVICH KOVALENKO WHO IS THE JAPANESE EMBASSY'S "CONTACT" IN THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE. AKIHO UNDERSTANDS THAT KOVALENKO USES THE TITLE "HEAD OF THE JAPAN SECTOR UNDER THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE" ON HIS CARD, BUT AKIHO HAS HEARD THAT HE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KOREA IN ADDITION TO JAPAN. AKIHO SAID THAT KOVALENKO VISITS JAPAN ABOUT TWICE A YEAR AS A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, AND KOVALENKO FREQUENTLY MEETS DELEGATIONS FROM THE JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY WHICH VISIT OR TRANSIT MOSCOW. HOWEVER, KOVALENKO'S MEETINGS WITH JAPANESE DIPLOMATS ARE CONDUCTED IN "DOM DRUZHBY" ON PROSPEKT KALININ UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE JAPANESE-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY.

2. AKIHO SAID THAT KOVALENKO WAS ONCE PRAISED BY CPSU SECRETARY M.A. SUSLOV TO A VISITING JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY DELEGATION AS
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ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST CAPABLE EXPERTS ON JAPANESE AFFAIRS IN

THE SOVIET UNION. AKIHO'S PERSONAL OPINION IS QUITE THE CONTRARY. IN FACT, AKIHO SAID THAT HE AND HIS AMBASSADOR DETESTED KOVALENKO AND SPECULATED THAT HE MAY BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR ON THE POLICY-MAKING LEVEL TO WHAT THE JAPANESE FEEL IS THE POOR STATE OF JAPANESE-SOVIET POLITICAL RELATIONS.

3. AKIHO SAID THAT KOVALENKO HAD BEEN THE EDITOR OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER "NIHON SHIMBUN" WHICH WAS PUBLISHED IN Khabarovsk AFTER WORLD WAR II, AND THAT HE WAS ONE OF THOSE INVOLVED IN "BRAINWASHING" JAPANESE POWS AND COLLABORATORS. KOVALENKO SPEAKS FLUENT JAPANESE, ACCORDING TO AKIHO. AKIHO SAID THAT ACCORDING TO A MOSCOW STORY, KOVALENKO'S FIRST WIFE DIED ABOUT 12 YEARS AGO FROM A FALL FROM AN APARTMENT HOUSE BALCONY; SHE WAS REPORTEDLY PULLED OVER BY A HEAVY RUG WHICH SHE WAS SHAKING OUT. ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER, KOVALENKO MARRIED AGAIN--A VERY ATTRACTIVE YOUNGER WOMAN.
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